

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining and promoting hair thickening comprising (A) providing a composition for increasing the expression of keratinocyte growth factor (FGF-7) in hair follicle cells, and (B) applying said preparation to the scalp of a subject in need thereof.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein expression of the FGF-7 is increased by applying to the scalp an external skin preparation containing one or more types of agents that increase the expression of FGF-7 in hair follicle cells selected from the group consisting of adenosine, adenosine 5'-phosphoric acid, adenosine 5'-phosphate, CCPA (2-chloro-N<sup>6</sup>-cyclopentyladenosine), C1-IB-MECA (2-chloro-N<sup>6</sup>-(3-iodobenzyl)-9-[5-(methylcarbamoyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl] adenine), and NECA (N-ethylcarboxyamido-adenosine).
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein at least one type of the agent that increases expression of FGF-7 in the hair follicle cells is adenosine.
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the hair follicle cells are dermal papilla cells or outer root sheath cells.
- 5.-10. (Cancelled).
11. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the hair follicle cells are dermal papilla cells or outer root sheath cells.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the hair follicle cells are dermal papilla cells or outer root sheath cells.
- 13.-14. (Cancelled) .